

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PARTICI- PATE IN THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTEWATER REUSE PROJECT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I take great pride in introducing legislation authorizing Federal involvement in the design and construction of a water reuse project in southern Alameda County.

The Alameda County Water District and the Union Sanitary District provide drinking water supplies and wastewater treatment services respectively to the California cities of Newark, Fremont, and Union City. By the year 2030, the combined service area water demands are expected to increase by 44 percent. The anticipated increase in demand, the scarcity of available water supplies, and an increased awareness of the importance of protecting our natural resources led the two districts to form a joint program to develop and implement the Alameda wastewater reuse project.

In order for this project to proceed, a limited amount of Federal assistance will be required. It is for this reason that I, today, am introducing legislation authorizing the water reuse project for Federal assistance under title XVI of Public Law 102-575.

In 1991, the Alameda County Water District and the Union Sanitary District jointly sponsored a water reuse survey to determine the potential for use of reclaimed water in southern Alameda County. The survey concluded that a water reuse project would provide an environmentally sound water resources management program, facilitate continued economic activity and general growth in the communities, and also serve as a model for other urban joint projects throughout the arid west. No less important, this project will complement other Federal, State, and local government efforts to restore San Francisco Bay's water quality.

In 1993, the two districts developed a reclaimed water master plan. Based on the plan, the two districts determined that design and construction of the Alameda County wastewater reuse project would be feasible and would meet the objectives of ensuring a sound and growing economy while promoting sound stewardship of limited water resources. Specifically, the project would:

Reduce demand on potable water supplies that could be used more efficiently for human consumption and natural resource needs;

Reduce wastewater discharges into the San Francisco Bay, thereby complementing regional, State, and Federal efforts to improve the bay-delta's water quality;

Ensure a reliable water supply for industry and other nonpotable purposes that will not be subject to cutbacks mandated by Federal and State requirements during periods of drought; and

Reduce the need for expansion of current drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities' capacity.

Based in part on the successful test of a pilot scale facility, this project enjoys broad support from the cities, school districts, and numerous industries, including high technology companies that depend on a reliable water supply. The project is also endorsed by the Association of California Water Agencies.

As I said before, water demands are expected to increase significantly over the next several years. With almost 85 percent of southern Alameda County's water supply imported it is important that we recognize that we need to leverage every possibility we have to maximize our local water resources. The Alameda County wastewater reuse project provides us with that opportunity.

The reclamation project has undergone necessary studies and it is ready to proceed to design and construction. Only with Federal assistance can the project take the next step and my legislation puts that in motion.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Resources Committee on the legislation and hope they can support this key component of the San Francisco Bay area's water resource management program.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTEWATER REUSE PROJECT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into agreements under the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) with the Alameda County Water District and the Union Sanitary District of Alameda County and other appropriate authorities to participate in the design, planning, and construction of water reuse projects to treat effluent from the Union Sanitary District, in order to—

(1) provide new water supplies for industrial, environmental, landscape, and other beneficial purposes;

(2) reduce the demand for potable imported water; and

(3) improve the water quality of the San Francisco Bay-Delta.

(b) COST SHARE.—The Secretary's share of costs associated with any project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of that project. The Secretary shall not provide funds for operation or maintenance of any such project.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote Nos. 788 and 789 due to mechanical problems with my flight to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, had I not been detained, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 788 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 789.

CLINTON AND THE BUDGET

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that President Clinton cares little about what the American people want. The American people want a balanced budget. They want Medicare saved. They want to look toward a brighter future. The continuing resolution my Republican colleagues and I passed is a down payment on that future.

I have heard over and over again the rhetoric on the catastrophic nature of a Government shutdown. Frankly Mr. Speaker, a Government shutdown is not catastrophic, not balancing the budget is. In fact, the vast majority of people will not even notice the Government is shut down. The mail will still be delivered. Social Security checks will still go out, and air traffic will continue flow.

The overwhelming majority of phone calls, faxes, and letters coming into my office on this issue are very supportive. I received a fax from a senior citizen in my district that said "Hang tough. Shut Government down. We seniors want a balanced budget in 7 years. And we want Medicare fixed, even if we have to pay some increase for the sake of our kids and grandkids. Hang tough!"

Mr. Speaker, while the folks back home are willing to hang tough, the President seems only willing to play golf. We've done our job. I urge the President to do his.

A VOICE FROM THE NEXT GENERATION SPEAKS OUT ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 1995

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House an especially timely and articulate letter I received from Honey Suzanne Hastings, a young constituent. She describes the impact the Endangered Species Act has had on her family as well as her own concerns regarding the weakening of property rights—an issue of particular interest to me and to many of my constituents. The letter is dated October 18, 1995, and reads in part:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: My name is Honey Suzanne Hastings. I am fourteen years old and a freshman at Bandera High School in Bandera, Texas.

In the past I have heard there was a conflict over property rights in Texas but it did

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